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HOW ABOUT THE GIRLS?



THE REFORMERS are on the war-path again in their linking up of child delinquency with Motion Pictures. We have heard so

much about the influence of The Movie

in teaching crime, that it would be interesting to know why girls, who are much more emotional it is said, much more sensitive to influence than boys, should not have been induced to hold-up trains, crack safes, bootleg, high-jacking, burglary, safe-blowing. These are a few of the habits which we of the Movies are said to scatter about. Far more girls than boys go to Movies. Seldom if ever have we heard a delinquent girl state that she was led away from the path of virtue because of Motion Pictures, nor have we heard, or read any statistical report which connected girls and Movies as cause and contributor of crime.

AN ELECTION DRAWS NEAR

THE first, or second week in June, if the Election prophets are as wise as the weather prophets, we will have a provincial election in the province of Ontario. There will be approximately 90 seats in the new campaign to be won, the elimination of the 22 former seats being effective as of June 1st, 1934.

One of the seats to be contested will be in Bellwoods Riding, Toronto, which lies between the boundaries of Palmerston Blvd. West and Crawford St. East. It is further bounded by the Bay going South and travels up beyond the City Limits going North. Its population is about forty-five thousand. There will be a Conservative candidate, a Liberal candidate and an Independent in the field. Of interest to our Industry is the fact that your Editor, Ray Lewis (Mrs. Joshua Smith) will be the Independent candidate for this riding in which she at one time polled five thousand votes in a campaign of only ten days.

So far no woman has received a Convention nomination for a seat in Parliament from any party for the Provincial House. Despite the fact that President Roosevelt, in the great Republic to the South of us, has deemed it sound sense and good government to appoint women to the highest posts in his government. The political parties in Ontario are still endeavoring to keep women as Ladies' Aid Societies to men candidates.

If your editor has been able to publish the Canadian Moving Picture Digest in Canada, for a period of eighteen years, she should be sufficiently fortified, sufficiently experienced in parliamentary procedure to take her place in Parliament in order to make the home a permanent institution in the life of the people, and Canada a better place to live in.

Over fifty percent of the vote is feminine and over seventy-five percent of legislation directly concerns the home. If woman's place is in the home, she should be "at home" in politics for the protection and security of the home.

Motion Pictures is one of the greatest public contacts in the service of the world today. We who are associated with it learn to know the public, as individuals, in class and in mass formation, for we study Man; and did not Alexander Pope, the great poet, say, "The proper study of Mankind is Man"?

President Roosevelt won his country's favour with the New Deal for The Forgotten Man. Your editor stands upon a platform for the protection and the security of the home, for, "Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home".



RAY



RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

THERE are only a few theatres in Prince Edward Island but the Province feels it should have its own Censor Board. If this comes to pass it means that the Exchanges will be obliged to open offices in Charlottetown in order to sell four theatres which run pictures.

It reminds me of a trip across the ocean where there was on board a crew of 1,500 to serve 1,200 passengers.

The Border Cities Star in commenting on the Prince Edward Island urge for theatres, heads an editorial, "Political Jobs", and comments as follows: "Just why Prince Edward Island should suddenly be thinking of a censorship board for pictures is hard to say. Back of it all, a person cannot help thinking that some of the party faithful see a good chance to drag down a nice job, with little to do and good pay for doing it.

"As far as that goes, why should all the provinces have censorship boards? Why could not one board serve the whole of Canada? Surely what is fitting to the morals of the folk in Halifax is equally fitting to those of Toronto, Vancouver or other points east and west."

This is not the first time that public opinion has so expressed itself, through its press, on the matter of Dominion Censorship.

I note that Mary Lowrey Ross has devoted over two columns in the Saturday Night of April 7th in reviewing the advantages and disadvantages of the recent Better Movies Conference, at Toronto, and at which Mrs. Robert Gilman was guest speaker, with not even one good word in her long complaint against the movies, for the Motion Picture Industry.

Miss Ross starts off with the following observation, "One heard iterated and reiterated through the long afternoon the same point of view, even the same phrases; the indecent movie, the salacious film, the filth poured out by Hollywood, the cult of the obscene; all fighting words. for the meeting was in a distinctly fighting mood."

It is interesting to observe that Miss Ross, who is not associated with Motion Pictures as is your editor, received the same impression as your editor. I became "fed up" with Mrs. Gilman right from the start, for Mrs. Gilman did not attempt to disguise the fact that she "had it in for movies and particularly for the Hays organization."

IT HAPPEN to be a Life Member of the Local Council of Women of which Mrs. Gilman was the guest speaker, but I am not on the Committee of Films which arranged for Mrs. Gilman's coming. Out of respect for the organization of which the speaker was a guest, I refrained from publicly revealing the

statements of the speaker, in regard to her facts about Motion Pictures, as unfounded, ridiculous and utterly void of facts. When she stated that even the British films and the British Film Industry were American-controlled, I inquired of her if she was familiar with the Cinematograph Act, and the purposes of the Film Quota, designed by the British Government to force American picture capital into the British Film Industry, and if she knew that exhibitors, distributors, etc., must release a quota of British-made films; and because of this legislation the American producers paid British producers to produce pictures for American producers to present in American-owned theatres in Great Britain, and to fill in the required Quota by way of distribution in Great Britain. She was compelled to answer, "That is true".

She further intimated that all the organizations on the National Board of Review were in the pay of the Hays Organization, and when I read them off, starting off with "The National Order of the Daughters of the American Revolution," etc., etc., her reply was, "The Hays Organization prints the pamphlet in which these organizations are listed," leaving her listeners to infer that the Hays Organization was publishing a false list of names.

She talked and talked of "Block booking" and "Blind booking", the helplessness of the exhibitor to select films. As Miss Ross states, it was one long antagonism; and so being a busy woman, I concluded that I would let her get rid of all her resentment, but that the Local Council of Women, would at the proper time and at a meeting convened for the purpose, be informed of the misinformation which their "guest speaker" delivered, and for which misinformation the Council paid their speaker a substantial sum.

ONE of the paradoxical angles of this meeting was the fact that here was a Paid Reformer attacking others, who in the pursuit of their service, not as Reformers, but workers in an Industry, received no pay for the work they did. It occurred to me that if one is fired with a zeal of reform, to serve children and civilization for the purposes of a better civilization, one might reasonably expect travelling expenses, but substantial fees for such service might open up an avenue of questions. Of course if one makes Reforming a business and pursues this work as a business, and not as a Divine Service, one might consider it good business to obtain the highest fee possible. Personally, I thought that the Local Council of Women could have used its money to better advantage, if its idea was to influence the Industry of Motion Pictures in respect to the Welfare of Children.

(Continued on page 6)

**"93 cents Out of Every Movie Dollar Stays in Canada" Col. John Cooper
Address to Rotarians**

An "Angel" Appears In the Form of Woman

(Special to Digest from Winnipeg)

Who should possess the film of the Victoria, B.C. made moving picture, "The Crimson Paradise", — the long list of creditors of the defunct Commonwealth Productions Limited, or Mrs. Kathleen Dunsmuir Humphreys, who put up more than \$20,000 on mortgages to finance the company's filming operations on the island of Vancouver.

That is the question put this week to Mr. Justice Robertson of the Supreme Court, Victoria, B.C., by J. B. Clearihue, counsel for H. G. Hinton, trustee for the Commonwealth in bankruptcy, and by H. G. Lawson, counsel for Mrs. Humphreys.

The lawyers said they wanted a formal court decision so as to settle definitely the question which has been raised by the creditors, who want to make certain of their position with regard to the film, which is set down as the only asset of the defunct company.

It was explained that Mrs. Humphreys advanced her money to the company on mortgages, which covered everything, including the payment of \$10,000, which was expected from Showman's, Inc., of New York, as first payment by that international film marketing organization on "The Crimson Paradise".

Mr. Clearihue said the main question was whether the pictures produced were covered by the mortgage.

During court proceedings in Victoria, B.C., a letter from Showmen's, Inc., to Mr. Hinton was read to the court by Mr. Clearihue. In this it was made clear that "The Crimson Paradise" was shut out of England because it did not comply with quota regulations. As to the suggestion that the picture should be withdrawn from British quota application and be submitted on its own merits, the New York distributors replied to Mr. Hinton in these words:

"If the picture is withdrawn as a British picture and submitted as a foreign picture, it would not bring five cents in the market. "The Crimson Paradise's" only value lies in the fact that it was a British picture."

The court was informed that the second production of the Commonwealth Company, "The Black Robe", was partly finished and in Vancouver, B.C. It was admitted that its position was the same as that of other assets.

Of "The Crimson Paradise", there are three prints, one in Victoria, B.C., one at the Showmen's offices in New York and the third in England. None of the prints are being used for show purposes.

"The question is whether or not the picture was included in the mortgage, now that the anticipated \$10,000 first payment for it has not been forthcoming," said Mr. Clearihue. "If the court holds it was included in the mortgage, it goes to Mrs. Humphreys."

The justice asked for all the documents and said he would go over them before giving his ruling.

Editor's Note: Mrs. Humphreys should have known that there was even a Serpent in the Garden of Eden and that in "A Crimson Paradise" she was most likely to be "bitten". Ah woe is me! What memories!

Midnight Shows Investigation

The Chief Inspector of theatres from the Provincial Treasurer's Department, Ontario, has been ordered to investigate Sunday Night Midnight Shows held in burlesque houses and other Toronto theatres.

The order comes on the request of the Police Commission. This is all as a result of the burlesque performance at the Empire; and further precipitated as a

result of the Roxy Theatre on Queen Street, almost opposite the City Hall. This theatre has been in the habit of running midnight shows a minute after twelve, Sunday night.

The Roxy presents a stage show also; and the front of the house generally resembles the front of a burlesque house, in that there is always a plentiful supply of pictures of the gentle sex, scantily clad.

It is a pity that theatre owners do not consider each other in the operation of their theatres, realizing that when a theatre is attacked it starts an attack against other theatres, which have given no cause for attack, operating their rights and privileges with conservative consideration.

The recommendation for cancellation of the movie license of the Roxy has been forwarded to the Commission, and will pass on to the Provincial authorities following the conviction of a member of the theatre staff for having liquor in his locker at the theatre. It is a pity this has occurred; and that a theatre which is a profitable business, should not have exercised every precaution to protect itself. There is such a thing as "flying in the face of Providence".

"Harlequinade" Thinks Motion Pictures Have Improved

The Montreal Herald acclaims the improvement in Motion Pictures since the advent of talking pictures. Under the column, "Harlequinade", W. D. O'Hearn comments as follows:

"The great number of British actors in Hollywood may be counted as a contributory influence to the improved standard of speech. The tendency on the part of native-grown players to emulate the Ronald Colman-Clive Brook mannerisms and diction can be remarked by any student of the talking film. But there are other players, always more intimately associated with the screen than with the 'legit' whose voices are clear and resonant and pleasing — one can cite for example Warner Baxter, Junior Fairbanks, Phillips Holmes, Conrad Nagel, Robert Young, Edmond Lowe, David Manners, Richard Barthelmess — and even at that one is passing over quite a few. Purposely let us overlook overseas actors, such as Leslie Howard, Reginald Denny, C. Aubrey Smith or Alan Mowbray; also omitted from the list are those players who had long training in the professional theatre in America — Lowell Sherman, the Barrymores, Ian Keith or Warren William. But if one were to enumerate, one could go on, if not forever, at least for many a day.

"And the ladies! Forget Katharine Hepburn's junior league voice and the Garbo gutturals and turn to the Hollywood-bred actress. We have young persons like Loretta Young, Frances Dee or Dorothy Jordan who are a delight to the ear as well as the eye. Myrna Loy, in her first talkie was a horrible disappointment but that was some years ago; in the meantime vocal teachers have worked wonders and produced a voice that is as near to Hollywood's conception of a cooing thrush as anything could be. Miss Loy's experience was happier than Joan Crawford's, whose naturally beautiful diction has been marred by an occasional affectation, having no relation to any localized accent in the world.

Certainly Hollywood has gone a long way from the declamation of the old-time theatre, the oh's and ah's and overfilled vowels and torrential rhetoric. And even though some gentleman in the British House of Commons may on occasions rise and denounce the debasing influence of the American cinema, we think the film has done much to develop a natural, lovely and reasonably varied manner of speaking — and the effect on film audiences will be felt around the world."

British Government Exempts Import Duties Sound Track Negative

Ray Presents

(Continued from page 4)

When a speaker starts off with this kind of advice, "Do not co-operate with the Industry in any way, one does not co-operate with vice", that spirit is an example of the spirit the War-Lords engender between nations when they think it is time to start a War.

Miss Ross states, "Three points emerged in the first five minutes and became increasingly clear as the meeting proceeded.

(a) That the group was looking at the movies exclusively from the point of view of child welfare.

(b) That the feeling towards Hollywood was one of hostility verging on animosity.

(c) That better movies in the only sense the group was prepared to accept it, meant more moral movies."

"What this highly representative group of women was working towards in fact was a world made safe for children and adolescents, a secure, controlled and limited world which would have, one could not help feeling, neither the imaginative anarchy of a child's world, since it was to be controlled by adults, nor the individualized freedom of an adult world, since it was to be administered in the interests of children."

MAY I here suggest that there were many present at this meeting who were polite listeners of the speaker, but who certainly did not believe that Motion Pictures was the "cess-pool of contamination" which the speaker wished to convey, for among these women, even including the President, Mrs. J. P. Hynes, are to be found Motion Picture

fans, and women who believe in co-operating with Motion Pictures by way of a Better Understanding, of a United Service, and an inspiration toward Better and still Better Motion Pictures.

The entire Industry of theatre owners will support the Local Council of Women in any contribution which it can offer by way of stimulating the production of Better Films; and simultaneously inspiring a better public patronage of these.

Producers would only be too happy to give the public what it desires, if the public will only express its desire at the box-office, which is the public barometer of its likes and dislikes.

The most venomous critics of Motion Pictures are to be found among those who never go to see motion pictures. One woman present at this meeting was taking notes with a zealotness which inspired me to inquire of her if she was interested in Motion Pictures, to which she replied, "I never go to them. When I was young, I had an accident to my eye, which prevents me from seeing Motion Pictures. When I do attend my eye bothers me and this gets me in a state of irritation which makes me dislike the picture."

In the same breath this woman told me that she agreed with Mrs. Gilman that Motion Pictures were no good!



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